

Beaverton Police Department

GENERAL ORDER

NUMBER: 9.21.00
SUBJECT: BOMB THREAT RESPONSE
EFFECTIVE: AUGUST 1, 1999
REVIEW: AUGUST 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007

1. PURPOSE. It is the purpose of this policy to provide officers with a protocol for dealing with potential bombings to include response, deployment, search, evacuation and assistance to specialized units.

2. POLICY: While many bomb threats are later determined to be hoaxes, they all present particularly serious response requirements for law enforcement agencies. It is the policy of this law enforcement agency that all responses to bomb threats or emergencies be conducted systematically, efficiently and in a manner that gives primary consideration to the protection of human life, while ensuring that the department does not unnecessarily interfere with the rights of property owners. Members are also expected to handle bomb threats in a manner which will not cause unnecessary risk to Department members.

3. DEFINITIONS.

A. Bomb Threat: A bomb threat condition exists when an explosive device has been reported or is suspected to be at a given location.

B. Bomb Emergency: A bomb emergency exists when a suspected or actual explosive device has been located or has been detonated.

4. BOMB THREAT PROCEDURES: Upon receipt of a bomb threat call, the assigned officers shall respond. The on duty supervisor will be immediately notified.

A. Responding officer's responsibilities:

1. The responding officer shall request the following from police communications:

a. identify the location of the device with as much precision as possible and determine when it will be or if it has been detonated;

b. determine what type of explosive device is involved;

- c. attempt to determine
 - d. what the device looks like;
 - e. the type of bomb involved;
 - f. what will make it detonate, (e.g., radio signal, time delay fuse);
 - g. why it was placed;
 - h. exact wording of the threat;
 - i. estimate of the gender, race and age of the caller;
 - j. nature/character of the caller's voice including accents or speech impediments;
 - k. nature of any background noises;
 - l. determine the location, time of detonation, appearance and any other available information concerning the nature of the threat or the identity of the perpetrators;
 - m. if no explosive device has been identified, ask that the caller alert employees and others to unusual parcels or items on the premises;
 - n. dispatch requisite patrol units and emergency personnel;
 - o. notify the watch commander as soon as possible.
2. Based on the nature of the threat, the officer in charge will, as required, alert this agency's:
- a. authorized bomb disposal unit;
 - b. authorized fire and rescue units;
 - c. HAZMAT units;
 - d. designated command officer;

e. Public Information Officer.

3. Responding patrol units shall use only portable radios or land line telephone for communication within 300 feet of the location in question. Some explosive devices may be detonated by stronger radio signals;
4. Establish and secure a suitable perimeter;
5. If applicable, contact the individual who received the threat and obtain additional information, to include:
 - a. whether previous threats have been received;
 - b. possible motives and/or suspects;
 - c. vulnerabilities of equipment and personnel, including on-scene hazardous materials; and
 - d. exploration of any basic information provided to communications.

B. Searching for explosive devices:

1. If an explosive device is alleged to be within a building but has not been located, the OIC (officer in charge) will contact building owners/management or other responsible persons to determine if a search of the facility is desired;
2. The decision to search, evacuate or to reenter a structure/location during a bomb threat will be the responsibility of the individual in charge of the property;
 - a. The OIC at the scene shall provide information as available to the responsible parties in order to assist them in making decisions on searching, evacuation or reentry;
 - b. If management or the responsible agent does not wish that a search be conducted, no further action of this agency is warranted with the exception of standardized agency reporting requirements;
 - c. Only in cases where a real or suspected explosive device has been detected shall an evacuation be conducted regardless of the desires of building management;

3. Searches of target buildings shall be conducted only with the direct assistance of employees or others knowledgeable of the contents and layout of the building;

a. The OIC may request the assistance of a bomb detection canine and/or bomb disposal personnel in order to assist in conducting the search.

b. A search plan shall be developed identifying the extent of the search depending upon the type of establishment, the motivation of the perpetrator and accessibility of the building.

c. A floor plan shall be obtained whenever possible, and a systematic search organized by the OIC.

d. In no case shall agency personnel declare that no bomb is present or in any way make the representation that the building is safe to occupy, no matter how thorough the search.

4. When conducting a search without the assistance of bomb disposal personnel, officers should be particularly alert to the following items as indicators that there:

a. Explosives-related pamphlets, periodicals and books;

b. Excessive amounts of galvanized or PVC pipe nipples and end caps, especially if they have drill holes in the nipple or cap;

c. may be explosives at the location. Officers should be cautioned that absence of the following does not assure that there is no bomb present:

d. Low-explosive powders or other incendiary mixtures;

e. Fuses of any type to include homemade burning fuses, such as string soaked in a burning powder;

f. Electrical switches; and

g. Electrical matches, blasting caps or similar initiators.

C. Located explosive devices:

1. If a real or suspicious device has been located, officers should:
 - a. not attempt to move or otherwise disturb the device(s);
 - b. do not use portable radios or cellular phones for communication within 300 feet of the device(s);
 - c. be aware of and search for possible secondary device(s) especially ingress/ egress routes, and obvious staging and assembly points;
 - d. proceed with immediate evacuation of the structure and/or the area to a point consistent with the threat but not less than 500 feet from the device(s);
 - e. define and secure the perimeter;
 - f. notify emergency services i.e. fire and rescue personnel;
 - g. if the person in charge of the property requests the department's assistance in removing a device, contact communications by telephone and request assistance of the Portland Police Bureau Bomb Disposal Unit. If they are unavailable, dispatch protocol shall be followed and the next designated bomb disposal unit on the list will be called.
 - h. notify command staff via chain of command.
2. The OIC is responsible for command of the scene and briefing of investigators and ordinance specialists as appropriate.
3. The bomb disposal commander shall have functional authority at any bomb emergency to direct agency personnel in a manner necessary to accomplish its mission in a safe and efficient manner.

Chief of Police

Date